

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13
HA-05 MCT-01 ACDA-12 COME-00 TRSE-00 /099 W
-----048412 180555Z /16

R 171751Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7702
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
DIA WASHDC
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 1810

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, SHUM, ES
SUBJECT: PUBLIC DEBATE OVER SAN PEDRO PERULAPAN RURAL VIOLENCE

REF: SAN SALVADOR 1753

1. OF SOME INTEREST IS THE CURRENT INTERPLAY OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS PRESENTATIONS BEING MADE WITH RESPECT TO THE RECENT VIOLENCE IN SAN PEDRO PERULAPAN AND OTHER NEARBY RURAL AREAS.
2. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, FIRST PUBLISHED WORD OF SAN PEDRO PERULAPAN VIOLENCE CAME IN FORM OF GOES ANNOUNCEMENTS THAT FECCAS/UTC/BPR FORCES WERE RAVAGING COUNTRYSIDE IN EFFORT TO CONSCRIPT ADHERENTS. OCCOSITION AND CHURCH VERSION FORTHCOMING SOON THEREAFTER CONTRADICTED THIS AND LAID BLAME AT DOOR OF PRO-GOVERNMENT ORDEN FORCES.

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3. GOES TOOK ALL LOCAL MILITARY ATTACHES ON CONDUCTED TOUR OF AFFECTED AREA AND PRODUCTED PEASANT WITNESSES WHO PLACED RESPONSIBILITY FOR RURAL DISTURBANCES SQUARELY ON FECCAS/UTC/BPR. VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THIS PERFORMANCE RAISED SOME QUESTION AS TO ITS VALIDITY.

4. CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT PARTY (PDC) INVITED EMBASSY

REPRESENTATIVES TO A SAN SALVADOR LOCATION WHERE IT IN
TURN PRODUCED PEASANT WITNESSES WHO PLACED RESPONSIBILITY
SQUARELY ON ORDEN AND GOES SECURITY FORCES. AGAIN VARIOUS
ASPECTS OF PERFORMANCE SEEMED CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN
AUTHENTIC.

5. ON FRIDAY, APRIL 14, PRESIDENT ROMERO, VICE
PRESIDENT ASTACIO, AND RANKING MILITARY FIGURES MET
WITH ASSEMBLED DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND PRESENTED GOES
VERSION OF RECENT EVENTS (SAN SALVADOR 1803). INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNISM AND ELEMENTS OF CATHOLIC CHURCH SEEMED TO EMERGE
FROM THIS PRESENTATION AS CO-INSTIGATORS OF EL SALVADOR'S
TROUBLES. TO MANY OF THOSE PRESENT, GOES APPEARED TO BE
GROPING FOR SOME AS YET UNPERCEIVED SOLUTION.

6. OVER WEEKEND, SAN SALVADOR PRESS PROMINENTLY CARRIED
"OPEN LETTER" FROM MEMBERS OF ORDEN IN SAN PEDRO PERULAPAN
AREA ADDRESSED TO ALL AMBASSADORS AND CONSULS IN THIS
COUNTRY, DENOUNCING "LIES" OF FECCAS/UTC/BPR, BLAMING
LATTER AND CHURCH ELEMENTS FOR RECENT INCIDENTS OF RURAL
VIOLENCE, AND INVITING ADDRESSEES TO PROCEED TO SAN PEDRO
PERULAPAN TO TALK THEMSELVES WITH RESIDENTS OF THAT AREA
AND HEAR THE TRUTH.

7. IN LIGHT OF ALL THESE PRESENTATIONS AND OBVIOUS PUBLIC-
RELATIONS EFFORT ON ALL SIDES OF PRESENT CONTROVERSY, IT
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IS AS USUAL NOT EASY TO DISCERN WHERE REAL TRUTH LIES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC RELATIONS, DEBATES, CIVIL DISORDERS, RURAL AREAS, CHURCH STATE RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Litigation History:
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